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Beauty and the Hairdresser

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Daily Preoccupation

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"Man's love is of man's life a thing apart," wrote Lord Byron in *Don Juan*; "'Tis woman's whole existence." Substitute the word "hair" for "love", and you will have a statement perhaps even more universally true.

There is no subject women consult each other about more, no part of their bodies which requires more constant attention, and no more exasperating daily preoccupation, than their hair. If our hair doesn't look right we feel ugly all over . . . and by some inexorability of fate, on those rare days when our hair does look right, and we've whisked in and out of the hairdresser in record time, we can practically be certain to meet with a driving rain or some equivalent natural disaster.

If the climate doesn't conspire against our hair, other things threaten. We can't swim after we have our hair done, or play tennis, or do the frug, or kiss a man with enthusiasm . . . or in short, do any of the things that it seemed important to have our hair done for. Who wants to beautify in order to wash the dishes?

Dorothy Parker has a poem about the tyranny of bed:

"Up, and out, and on; and then
Ever back to bed again,
Summer, Winter, Spring, and Fall
I'm a fool to rise at all!"

This sentiment would be equally applicable to hair, for there are times

when all of us, catching a glimpse of ourselves in the mirror one hour after we have parted from our hairdresser, wonder what flame of eternal optimism we were pursuing while we were roasting under the dryer.

I know women whose whole view of the world has been colored by hair problems, like Mrs. Archibald Roosevelt, whose husband directs the Central Intelligence Agency in England: "I'd absolutely love London, except that the rain always makes my hair look funny." Or Mrs. Nan Tucker McEvoy, who when she was Deputy Director of the Peace Corps for Africa, made the revealing statement to Sargent Shriver; "I always prefer the ex-French colonies to the British, because I can get my hair done there so much more easily."